

Heard from the Curb

Spring 2004

CITY OF FRISCO - ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

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Dear Green Team,
I've been the same size for ten years now and no matter how hard I try it doesn't seem that I am getting any bigger. I've added more materials and still can't gain weight or grow taller. Many of my friends have moved up in size. What can I do to be like them? Is there growth in my future?

Signed,
Dreaming of Bigger Things



Dear Dreaming of Bigger Things,

Don't worry, help is just around the corner! We know you have been struggling and have been working on a solution. Your future looks bigger and better. We are moving you up to the same size as your friends; you may even be a little larger! You'll receive your makeover in August. Until then, please continue to do your best to recycle as much as possible.

*Signed,
The Green Team*

ATTENTION!!

CALLING ALL FRISCO RESIDENTS!!!
WE NEED YOU TO ENLIST
IN A CITYWIDE CLEANUP TO HELP
"KEEP FRISCO BEAUTIFUL"

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP
SATURDAY, APRIL 24
8 A.M. — NOON

BASE CAMP:
Frisco Square West Parking Lot
8843 Coleman Blvd, corner of
Main Street and the Dallas North Tollway

REPORT FOR DUTY:
8 a.m. — Volunteer Registration

CHOW HALL:
Noon to 1 p.m.
FREE lunch to all registered volunteers

FREE T-SHIRTS
to the first 500
pre-registered
volunteers!

COMMAND POST:
To volunteer, call
972.335.5555, Ext. 192
City of Frisco
Environmental Services
972.335.5519



Joining Forces to Make a Difference in Your Community!

Now's your chance to

"Chunk your Junk"

Containers and vendors will be on site at Frisco Square on
April 24th, 8 a.m. - Noon, to collect :

Trash: Roadside and unwanted household items.

Recyclables: Tree limbs, metals, cardboard, old computers,
laser cartridges, cell phones and household chemicals.

"Swap 'til you drop"

No need for a garage sale - we'll provide a table for you to
trade your items. Contact us at 972-335-5519 to let us
know what you will be bringing.

8 a.m. — Noon only.



Dear Green Team,
I am a nervous wreck. Springtime's windy weather is causing my lid to flap uncontrollably and my contents are in danger of becoming airborne. No one wants a bad reputation but I feel this may be my fate if I don't do something to control the situation. What can I do to make sure everything placed inside my cart stays there until collection?
Signed
Trashing the Neighborhood

Dear Trashing the Neighborhood,

Your problem is easy to fix. Loose trash should not be put into your cart. Just ask your owners to use plastic bags and make sure they seal them tightly before placing them inside your cart. The wind may blow but your contents will never show up in the neighborhood again.

*Signed,
The Green Team*

Paper or Plastic?

For grass and brush clippings there's only one way to go – paper. Paper bags can be sent directly to our composting facility for processing. Plastic bags are not acceptable.

Follow these guidelines to ensure collection:

- Purchase paper not plastic bags (Paper bags are available at local grocery / hardware stores)
- Place bags out for collection on your regular trash collection day.
- Place at least three feet away from your trash cart.
- Bags must not weigh more than 30 pounds each.
- Do not fill bags with household trash, sod, soil or pet waste – these items are unacceptable.
- Do not place yard waste in your trash cart.

In 2003, your support of this program saved Frisco \$38,000 in landfill disposal charges.

So choose paper - not plastic - and help us to keep your costs down!



Brushing Up On Tree Waste

Got Limbs? Free pick up of brush and tree limbs is available. Follow these guidelines:

- Tree trimmings and brush must be bundled into three (3) foot lengths. These items, as long as tied and bundled, do not have to be placed in paper bags.
- Place at least three feet away from your cart on your regularly scheduled collection day.

Brush and tree limbs must meet pick up requirements, otherwise, they will not be picked up. Loose brush and tree limbs are subject to a charge. Call I.E.S.I. at 972-377-3570 to arrange for a quote.



Start Your Engines!

Keep lawn equipment maintained by doing the following:

- Take the time to drain old gasoline and oil from equipment. (Do this in a well ventilated area away from heat source.)
- Do not mix products.
- Label containers clearly.
- Bring unwanted fuels to our Household Hazardous Waste Center, 6726 Walnut Street for safe disposal. Call 972-335-5558 for hours of operation.



Cut the Work Out of Yard Care

Cut down on the amount of grass you remove. Many residents choose to “scalp” their yards in the spring. “Scalping,” which is the removal of all dead surface grass, can increase the risk of damage to your lawn. Exposing tender roots too early can make them more susceptible to disease. Rule of “Green Thumb”: Mow no more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at one time. Rather than bag your grass clippings, you may choose to leave them on the ground where they will return valuable nutrients to the soil. You’ll save money and use less water.



Purple Skeeter Eater

Some say that purple martins eat their weight in mosquitoes every day. We cannot confirm this to be a fact, but we do know these colorful, friendly birds eat many varieties of flying insects. Rather than using chemicals or expensive equipment, you may wish to invite them to your garden where they can provide you with hours of entertainment and insect control. To learn more about these fascinating birds, visit www.purplemartin.org.



Here's to the Winner



This magnificent poster entitled "Safari Animals" was drawn by Christie Shokler, a fourth grade student at Shawnee Trails Elementary School. Her poster was the winning entry in an Environmental Protection Agency contest, sponsored by the Frisco Independent School District Council PTA's Environmental Committee. Contestants were asked to demonstrate the importance of natural resources, conservation and preservation. Four contestants from Riddle Elementary School, Kathy Chen, Haley Womak, Christina Fu, Tiffany Kuan and Spears Elementary student Michael Nicholson, received honorable mentions.

Splish Splash

Residential water usage escalates more than 75% in Spring and Summer.

This is mainly due to the watering of landscaping. To keep your water bills low, practice good housekeeping.

- Turn off sprinklers if it has rained, or if it's raining or windy.
- Water the grass not the sidewalk.
- Water only when needed. For Bermuda grass, water 1 to 1.5 inches every five days.
- Use a slow release nitrogen fertilizer; 15-5-10. Better yet, use a non-chemical alternative.
- Choose native plants that are heat and drought tolerant.

If you are interested in learning more about water conserving techniques and organic alternatives, give us a call at 972-335-5519.

Water is the Earth's most valuable resource and too precious to waste!



CURRENT RESIDENT



City of Frisco
6891 Main Street
Frisco, TX 75034

FRISCO

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